



U.S. Department of Justice

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING FUNDS  
OBTAINED BY DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that 55-year-old Irene D. Howard of Waterville, Maine, was sentenced today to two years of probation and six months of home confinement for the interstate transfer of funds she stole from the Social Security Administration.

From about March, 2000, through about July, 2006, Howard fraudulently obtained about \$100,724 in disability benefits payments from the Social Security Administration. Although she had claimed she was disabled and unable to work, Howard was gainfully employed and consequently ineligible to collect disability benefits when she received these payments. From about March, 2005, through about August, 2006, Howard caused the wire transfer of about \$20,553 of the fraudulently obtained funds from her bank accounts in Maine to her bank account in New Hampshire.

Under federal law, it is illegal to cause the interstate transfer of more than \$5,000 that was knowingly obtained by fraud.

Howard was indicted on one count of interstate transfer of stolen funds by a federal grand jury on September 12, 2007. She pleaded guilty to that charge on February 20, 2008. Today, in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire, the court sentenced her to serve two years of probation with the condition that she serve a six month term of home confinement. The court also ordered Howard to pay restitution to the Social Security Administration totaling \$100,724.

This case was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.